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Message Text

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67
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 NIC-01 /121 W
---------- 105571
R 021658Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8343
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY KINSHASAI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 2298

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, TO, XE
SUBJ: WAVE OF PRO-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA GROWS IN TOGO

REF: USIS LOME FIELD MESSAGE NO 2, SEPT 23, 1974

SUMMARY: REF UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE DESCRIBES MAJOR EVENTS, SPEECHES
AND MEDIA COVERAGE DURING AND AFTER EYADEMA VISIT TO PRC AND NORTH
KOREA AUGUST 31 TO SEPTEMBER 13, 1974. WAVE OF PRO-PRC, PRO-
NORTH KOREA AND PRO-SIHANOUK PROPAGANDA UNLEASHED BY VISIT CONTINUES
TO BUILD UP IN GOVT-OWNED PRESS, RADIO AND TV - AND THERE ARE
NO RPT NO OTHER MEDIA IN TOGO. END SUMMARY.
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1. TODAY'S TOGO-PRESSE (OCTOBER 2) IS TYPICAL AND FOLLOWING ANALYSIS ILLUSTRATES HOW FAR TREND TO LEFTIST DOMINATION OF MEDIA HAS GONE. TODAY'S PAPER HAS EIGHT PAGES, TOTAL OF 637 COLUMN INCHES, OF WHICH 270 (42 PERCENT) DEVOTED TO PRO-COMMUNIST NEWS, INTERVIEWS AND STRAIGHT COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA. PERCENTAGE RISES TO 57 PERCENT WHEN ONE EXCLUDES TWO PAGES WHICH NEVER CARRY NEWS (ONE DEVOTED TO RADIO SCHEDULE, HOROSCOPES, "JOKES"; OTHER IS CLASSIFIED AND PERSONAL ADS - INCLUDING FREQUENT CALLS TO ATTEND RPT PARTY CELL MEETINGS).

2. PAGE ONE DEVOTED 36 OUT OF 72 COL INCHES TO EYADEMA'S MES-SAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAIRMAN MAO ON PRC NATIONAL DAY (AND TO GOWAN OF NIGERIA ON NIGERIAN DAY), PHOTO OF PAPER'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL KWAOVI BENYI (POLYCARPE) JOHNSON WITH SIHANOUK AND TEXT OF INTERVIEW SIHANOUK GAVE HIM IN PEKING. PAGES 4 AND 5 ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO "THE RURAL SOCIALIST QUESTION IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA" WITH QUARTER-PAGE PHOTO OF KIM IL SUNG. ARTICLE CONSISTS OF THESES PRESENTED BY KIM IL SUNG AND ADOPTED BY 8TH PLENARY SESSION OF FORTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF LABOR PARTY OF KOREA ON FEBRUARY 25, 1964 RPT 1964.

3. CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN LOME IS SEMINAR ORGANIZED TO CELE-BRATE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PUBLICATION OF ABOVE THESES. OCTOBER 1 TOGO-PRESSE CLAIMS SOME HUNDRED DELEGATES ARE ATTENDING SEMINAR FROM THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN ASIA, LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA. CHAIRMAN OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF SEMINAR, T-P DIRGEN JOHNSON SAYS THESE THESES HAVE TURNED NORTH KOREA INTO "PARADISE" AND "GIVE ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT."

4. PAO AND EMBASSY BELIEVE ROUGHLY SAME PROPORTION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION TIME CURRENTLY DEVOTED PRO-ASIAN COMMUNIST THEMES AS IN PRESS. ALL MEDIA ARE, IN FACT, CONTROLLED AND LARGELY FED BY SAME HANDFUL OF PEOPLE; MININFO EKLO; HIS DIRECTOR OF CABINET NAMPOUGUINI PAPADJA LARE; DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICE BATOKE AWESSO; T-P DIRGEN JOHNSON; KOKOU AMEDEGNATO, CHIEF OF RADIO NEWS SERVICE, AND FEW OTHERS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE WE KNOW MANY TOGOLESE, PARTICULARLY AMONG WESTERN-EDUCATED, CHRISTIAN ELITE - CHIEFLY SOUTHERNERS, ARE HEARTSICK AT CURRENT TREND TO LEFT AS VIVIDLY DISPLAYED IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MEDIA AND FOREIGN POLICY ACTIONS, IT SEEMS AT THIS STAGE THERE IS AS YET NO RPT NO GROUP OR COALITION OF GROUPS IN SIGHT WHICH CAN HALT, LET ALONE REVERSE, TREND.
RAWLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, PROCOMMUNIST
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOME02298
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740279-0317
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741080/aaaacqhi.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USIS LOME FIELD MESSAGE NO 2, SEPT 2, 3, 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WAVE OF PRO-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA GROWS IN TOGO
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, TO, XE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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